

CLAIMS

1. An input peripheral (1) for a computer or the like,
the peripheral comprising a movable portion handled by
the operator and fitted with electrical sensors suitable
5 for generating electrical signals for sending to the
computer in response to movements imparted to the movable
portion by the operator, the peripheral being
characterized in that the movable portion comprises a
shell (4) connected to a stationary base (2) by means of
10 joint means configured arranged to allow all possible
movements of the shell (4) relative to the base (2) with
the exception of movement in translation in a direction
substantially perpendicular to the support plane of the
base (2).
- 15 2. An input peripheral according to claim 1,
characterized in that the joint means comprises a
connection element (5) having a first end (6) co-
operating with the shell (4) to provide a spherical type
20 connection, and a plane second end (8) slidably received
against a plane surface (9) of the base (2).
3. An input peripheral according to claim 2,
characterized in that the first end (6) of the connection
25 element (5) is spherical and is received in a
complementary cavity in the shell (4).
4. An input peripheral according to claim 2,
characterized in that the first end (6) of the connection
30 element (5) and the shell (4) includes co-operation means
to allow the shell (4) to move about an axis contained in
a plane parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base,
while uniting the connection element (5) and the shell
(4) in rotation about an axis perpendicular to said
35 plane.

5. An input peripheral according to claim 3 and claim 4, characterized in that the co-operation means comprise studs (21) extending in an equatorial plane of the spherical end (6) parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base, the studs (21) extending through grooves (24) in the spherical cavity (7) of the shell (4) allowing the shell (4) to move in rotation about an axis contained in the equatorial plane.
6. A peripheral according to claim 3 and claim 4, characterized in that the co-operation means comprise fluting (30, 31) with curved flanks extending between the shell (4') and the first end (6') of the support element (5').
7. An input peripheral according to claim 2, characterized in that it includes a first slider (10) mounted to slide on the base (2) in a first direction (14) contained in a plane parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base (2), and a second slider (15) slidably mounted in the first slider (10) to slide along a second direction (16) also contained in said plane and perpendicular to the first direction (14), the second slider (15) including means (20, 24; 33, 34) for centering it on the support element (5).
8. A peripheral according to claim 2, characterized in that the support element comprises an anisotropic resilient member (5'') bearing firstly against the plane surface of the base and secondly against the shell, being suitable for bending elastically in directions parallel to the plane surface (9'') of the base (2'').
9. An input peripheral according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes return means (22, 23) for returning the shell (4) towards an equilibrium position.

10. An input peripheral according to claim 7 and claim 9,
characterized in that the return means comprise helical
springs (22) extending between the base (2) and the
5 second slider (15).

11. An input peripheral according to claim 7 and claim 9,
characterized in that the return means comprise a helical
spring (23) extending between the shell (4) and the
10 second slider (15), and including one end held stationary
against the shell (4) and one end held stationary against
the second slider (15).

12. An input peripheral according to claim 1,
15 characterized in that it includes a member (100) for
controlling an additional degree of freedom.